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Letter dated 12 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the Nicosia flight information region and of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish air force.

On 14 November 1995, a formation of two RF-4 Turkish air force aerial reconnaissance aircraft flew all around the Cyprus coast from 1128 to 1218 hours, carrying out an aerial photographic reconnaissance of the entire coastal area of the Republic.

This latest violation of the Nicosia flight information region and of the Cyprus airspace, which shows clearly Turkey's contempt for international law, took place on the eve of the anniversary of the unilateral proclamation on 15 November 1983 by the Turkish Cypriot leadership, encouraged by the Turkish Government, of a secessionist entity in the part of Cyprus under the military occupation of Turkey. This proclamation was rejected unequivocally as illegal and invalid by the Security Council. By resolution 541 (1983) adopted by the Council on 18 November 1983, the Council condemned the secessionist entity, describing it as null and void and called for its immediate withdrawal.

Moreover, this latest violation took place while the Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus are illegally detaining a 19-year-old Greek Cypriot national guardsman who was abducted nearly two weeks ago and held secretly for five days before the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was notified about it.

Such developments only heighten tensions in Cyprus and constitute serious impediments to the efforts for achieving progress in the search for a solution to the Cyprus problem.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly these unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and of the Republic's airspace by the Turkish air force aircraft, which violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council on the question of Cyprus. At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions, which are contrary to the rules of international civil aviation, jeopardize civil aviation safety in the area.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Permanent Representative